

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0404

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO FORCE GOALS 1975-1980

REF: A. USNATO 275

B. USNATO 254

C. STATE 9700

D. STATE 3832 PARA 5

E. USNATO 6110 PARA 3

SUMMARY. WITH RECENT PRESENTATION OF MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS' (MNCS) FORCE PROPOSALS TO MILITARY COMMITTEE (MC) AND DPC, PROCESS OF DEVELOPING NATO FORCE GOALS FOR 1975 TO 1980 HAS BEGUN. PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO CALL ATTENTION TO IMPORTANCE OF OPPORTUNITY WHICH ARISES ONLY IN ALTERNATE YEARS TO IMPROVE CONVENTIONAL FORCE CAPABILITIES OF NATO ALLIES, AND TO REQUEST SPECIFIC WASHINGTON GUIDANCE AS IT PROCEEDS. END SUMMARY. CONFIDENTIAL

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1. PRESENTATION OF MNCS FORCE PROPOSALS TO DPC ON JANUARY 17 AND 18 (SEE USNATO 254 AND 275) MARKED BEGINNING OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS. MNC'S FORCE PROPOSALS ARE NOW UNDER REVIEW BY MC. WE UNDERSTAND MC WILL MEET TO CONSIDER

FORCE PROPOSALS ON FEB 7. IN MID-FEBRUARY, DRC WILL BEGIN TO CONVERT FORCE PROPOSALS INTO DRAFT FORCE GOALS. BY LATE MARCH, DRC IS TO SUBMIT DRAFT FORCE GOALS TO DPC FOR ADOPTION AS NATO FORCE GOALS FOR 1975 TO 1980 PERIOD.

2. FORCE GOALS EXERCISE IS ONE OF MAIN LEVERS FOR INFLUENCING FUTURE MAKE-UP OF ALLIED FORCES. GOALS SERVE TO GUIDE NATIONAL FORCE PLANNING, AND MANY ALLIED GOVTS USE NATO FORCE GOALS AS BASIS FOR ASKING PARLIAMENTS TO INCLUDE FORCE IMPROVEMENTS IN BUDGETS. FORCE GOALS SHOULD OFFER A REASONABLE CHALLENGE TO EACH COUNTRY; HOWEVER, IN PAST, GOALS HAVE OFTEN BEEN UNREALISTICALLY HIGH. MAJOR AND CONTINUING DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN COUNTRY FORCE PLANS AND NATO FORCE GOALS HAVE CAUSED SOME MEMBERS OF U.S. CONGRESS TO DOUBT ADEQUACY AND SINCERITY OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE EFFORTS.

3. THE U.S. HAS AT THIS MOMENT AND IN COMING WEEKS AN OPPORTUNITY TO AFFECT FORCE PROPOSALS/FORCE GOALS IN THE MC, THE DRC, AND THE DPC. IN

USNATO 6110, WE SUGGESTED U.S. SHOULD PUSH IN THESE FORA FOR INCLUSION OF SPECIFIC FORCE GOALS IN LINE WITH BASIC ISSUES STUDIES AND OTHER U.S. OBJECTIVES. STATE 3832 OUTLINED AREAS APPROPRIATE FOR EMPHASIS AND STATE 9700 NOTED TASK FACING DPC IN SETTING FORCE GOALS THAT BOTH INVOLVE A REASONABLE CHALLENGE TO COUNTRIES AND RESULT IN WELL-COORDINATED IMPROVEMENTS IN NATO FORCES.

4. IN AN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A CLEARER LINK BETWEEN MILITARY REQUIREMENTS AND THE DIFFICULT POLITICAL DECISIONS NEEDED TO MOVE ALLIED GOVTS TOWARD IMPORTANT FORCE IMPROVEMENTS, I AM SENDING A LETTER TO SYG LUNS ASKING FOR AN EARLY MEETING OF THE DPC FOR PURPOSE OF ASKING MC TO INCLUDE IN ITS REPORT TRANSMITTING FORCE PROPOSALS TO DPC INFORMATION THAT MAKES FORCE PROPOSALS MORE MEANINGFUL TO POLITICAL AUTHORITIES. IN PARTICULAR, I AM ASKING FOR IDENTIFICATION OF THOSE PROPOSALS NOT INCLUDED IN CURRENT COUNTRY PLANS, OF LOW COST/NO COST  
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PROPOSALS WHICH COULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT ANY SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENT OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, OF PROPOSALS WHOSE IMPLEMENTATION WOULD MOVE NATO IN DIRECTION OF INCREASED STANDARDIZATION AND COOPERATION (INCLUDING PROPOSALS WHICH PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT PROCUREMENT), AND OF PROPOSALS THAT WOULD BE RECOMMENDED IF PROJECTED RESOURCES FOR DEFENSE WERE LIMITED TO 1973 LEVEL OF DEFENSE SPENDING PLUS A FIVE PERCENT RAL TERM INCREASE OVER THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD.

5. IN MY VIEW, PROCESS OF DEVELOPING FORCE GOALS HAS POTENTIAL FOR BRINGING ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION OF HIGH PRIORITY CONVENTIONAL FORCE IMPROVEMENTS IN A POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CLIMATE IMPOSING SEVERE BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS. WASHINGTON HAS PROVIDED GENERAL PHILOSOPHY ON FORCE GOALS. HOWEVER, IF U.S. IS TO SEIZE

PRESENT OPPORTUNITY, USNATO NEEDS GUIDANCE PROMISED IN STATE 9700  
TO USE AT AN EARLY STAGE IN THE CYCLE.  
THAT GUIDANCE SHOULD PROVIDE OPTIONS AND PRIORITIES  
AMONG THE OPTIONS FOR SPECIFIC MNC FORCE PROPOSALS FOR VARIOUS  
MILITARY REGIONS AND FOR INDIVIDUAL ALLIED GOVERNMENTS.  
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